

What is claimed is:

1           1.       A foldable electronic apparatus comprising  
2           a first part;  
3           a second part; and  
4           an elastic sheet having a first end fixed to said first part, a second end fixed to  
5           said second part, and a longitudinal axis extending from said first end to said second end, said  
6           elastic sheet being foldable transversely of said longitudinal axis so that said first part is  
7           pivotal with respect to said second part, said elastic sheet, when folded transversely of said  
8           centerline, loading said first part away from said second part toward a longitudinally unloaded  
9           position of said sheet.

1           2.       The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sheet is  
2           curved transversely of said centerline at at least one of said first and second ends.

1           3.       The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 2, wherein at least one of said  
2           first and second parts comprises a curved slot which receives said at least one of said first and  
3           second ends.

1           4.       The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 2, wherein said sheet is  
2           curved transversely of said centerline at both of said ends.

1           5.     The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 4, wherein, when said sheet is  
2 in said longitudinally unloaded position, said sheet is curved transversely of said axis from said  
3 first end to said second end.

1           6.     The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 5, wherein each of said first  
2 and second parts comprises a curved slot which receives a respective one of said first and  
3 second ends.

1           7.     The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 5, wherein, when said sheet is  
2 in said longitudinally unloaded position, said sheet has a uniform curvature from said first end  
3 to said second end.

1           8.     The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of said first  
2 and second parts has a central plane, said first and second ends being fixed in respective said  
3 first and second parts with said central planes at respective first and second angles to said  
4 centerline, said angles being determinative of the angle between the central planes when said  
5 sheet is in said longitudinally unloaded position.

1           9.     The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 8, wherein, in said  
2 longitudinally unloaded position, said first end is oriented about 180 degrees from said second  
3 end, whereby said central planes are at an angle of about 180 degrees less said first and second  
4 angles.

1                   10.    The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 8, wherein said first angle is  
2 substantially equal to said second angle.

1                   11.    The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 8, wherein each of said first  
2 and second angles is between about 15 and about 30 degrees.

1                   12.    The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a  
flexible printed circuit element extending from said first part to said second part adjacent to  
said elastic sheet.

1                   13.    The foldable electronic apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an  
elastomeric sheath on said elastic sheet.

1                   14.    The folding electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a  
mobile telephone.

1                   15.    The folding electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein said elastic sheet  
2 comprises at least two layers with an electrical connection between said first and second parts  
3 between said layers.

1                   16.    The folding electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein, in said  
2 longitudinally unloaded position, said first end is oriented less than 180 degrees from said  
3 second end.